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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/883,776

Examiner

Kuen S. Lu

Applicant(s)

SUBRAMANIAM ET AL.

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to telephone interview conducted on 8/9/2005 with Applicant, a summary is attached.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-28 and 30.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date #1 8/9/2005.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the Patent Application filed on June 18, 2001 and an interview conducted on August 9, 2005. A copy of the interview summary is attached. In the interview, the Applicant agreed to replace claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-28 and 30 amended on February 24 with the version of October 21, 2004 for each claim, respectively. Note the October 21, 2005 version of claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-28 and 30 were allowed on January 6, 2005.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-28 and 30 are currently pending in the Application.

Examiner's Amendments

3. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an Amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment, listed below, was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Chui-kiu Teresa Wong, on August 9, 2005.

4. Please replace the claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-28 and 30, filed on February 24, 2005, with the new versions as listed follows:

Listing of the Claims:

1. A method comprising:

configuring search indices on a server, the search indices being associated with corresponding business components; displaying the search indices to a user of a client, the client being connected to the server via a computer network and being configured to perform search using data records stored on the client; providing the user of the client with a mechanism to individually select one or more search indices for download onto the client; and downloading the one or more selected search indices from the server onto the client, the one or more selected search indices to be used for searching on the client, wherein search index related information including index identifier and search engine identifier is stored in a first table and search index related file attachments are stored in a second table.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein each search index is associated to a corresponding search category.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein displaying the list of search indices includes: displaying a list of search categories that are associated to the search indices.

4. (Canceled).

5. The method of claim 1 wherein downloading includes: performing a database synchronization operation to download index files containing search indices as attachments onto the client.

6. The method of claim 5 further including: performing an uncompress operation to uncompress the index files downloaded from the server into a specific directory on the client.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein each search index is represented by a

corresponding search index object which includes an index identifier and a business component identifier of a specific business component to which the respective search index is associated.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein configuring the search indices includes: defining a search index object for each business component that needs to be indexed by a search engine; and associating the respective search index object to the corresponding business component.

9. (Canceled).

10. The method of claim 1, wherein downloading includes:

marking associated index attachment files to be downloaded in response to the client's request for a database synchronization operation.

11. A system comprising: . logic to configure search indices on a server, the search indices being associated with corresponding business components; logic to display the search indices to a user of a client, the client being connected to the server via a computer network and being configured to perform search using data records stored on the client; logic to provide the user of the client with a mechanism to individually select one or more search indices for download onto the client; and logic to download the one or more selected search indices from the server onto the client, the one or more selected search indices to be used for searching on the client, wherein search index related information including index identifier and search engine identifier is stored v1 a first table and search index related file attachments are stored in a second table.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein each search index is associated to a

corresponding search category.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein logic to display the list of search indices includes: logic to display a list of search categories that are associated to the search indices.

14. (Canceled)

15. The system of claim 11 wherein logic to download includes: logic to perform a database synchronization operation to download index files containing search indices as attachments onto the client.

16. The system of claim 15 further including:
logic to perform an uncompress operation to uncompress the index files downloaded from the server into a specific directory on the client.

17. The system of claim 11 wherein each search index is represented by a corresponding search index object which includes an index identifier and a business component identifier of a specific business component to which the respective search index is associated.

18. The system of claim 11 wherein logic to configure the search indices includes: logic to define a search index object for each business component that needs to be indexed by a search engine; and logic to associate the respective search index object to the corresponding business component.

19. (Canceled).

20. The system of claim 11, wherein logic to download includes: logic to mark associated index attachment files to be downloaded in response to the client's request for a database synchronization operation.

21. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations including: configuring search indices on a server, the search indices being associated with corresponding business components; displaying the search indices to a user of a client, the client being connected to the server via a computer network and being configured to perform search using data records stored on the client; providing the user of the client with a mechanism to individually select one or more search indices for download onto the client; and downloading the one or more selected search indices from the server onto the client, the one or more selected search indices to be used for searching on the client, wherein search index related information including index identifier and search engine identifier is stored in a first table and search index related file attachments are stored in a second table.

22. The machine-readable medium of claim 21 wherein each search index is associated to a corresponding search category.

23. The machine-readable medium of claim 22 wherein displaying the list of search indices includes: displaying a list of search categories that are associated to the search indices.

24. (Canceled)

25. The machine-readable medium of claim 21 wherein downloading includes: performing a database synchronization operation to download index files containing search indices as attachments onto the client.

26. The machine-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the operations further include: performing an uncompress operation to uncompress the index files downloaded from the server into a specific directory on the client.

27. The machine-readable medium of claim 21 wherein each search index is represented by a corresponding search index object which includes an index identifier and a business component identifier of a specific business component to which the respective search index is associated.

28. The machine-readable medium of claim 21 wherein configuring the search indices includes: defining a search index object for each business component that needs to be indexed by a search engine; and associating the respective search index object to the corresponding business component.

29. (Canceled).

30. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein downloading includes: marking associated index attachment files to be downloaded in response to the client's request for a database synchronization operation.

Reason for Allowable

5. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, U.S. Patent 6,334,124 (Techniques for Improving Index Searches in a Client-Server Environment), issued to Borchard et al., teaches method for facilitating index searching by a client through records of a data-store. This reference does not fairly teach search index related information, which includes index identifier, search engine identifier, and search index related file attachments. Bouchard reference

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does not anticipate Claims 1, 11 or 21, where the amended Claim 1 is listed in Item 5.

Furthermore, combining with the second prior art of record, U.S. Patent 6,546,385

(Methods and Apparatus for Indexing and Searching Content in Hardcopy Documents),

issued to Mao et al., the combined Mao-Bouchard reference does not fairly teach the

following limitations in combination of independent Claims 1, 11 and 21:

configuring search indices on a server, the search indices being associated with corresponding business components;

displaying the search indices to a user of a client, the client being connected to the server via a computer network and being configured to perform search using data records stored on the client;

providing the user of the client with a mechanism to individually select one or more search indices for download onto the client; and

downloading the one or more selected search indices from the server onto the client, the one or more selected search indices to be used for searching on the client, wherein search index related information including index identifier and search engine identifier is stored in a first table and search index related to file attachments are stored in a second table.

Also note the reason above as originally stated on January 6, 2005 remains the same based on an update search conducted on August 9, 2005.

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6. Claims 2-3, 5-8 and 10, 12-13, 15-18 and 20, and 22-23, 25-28 and 30 are dependent on 1, 11 and 21, respectively and also distinct from the prior art for the same reason.

Conclusions

7. Any comments considered necessary by Applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

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Contact Information

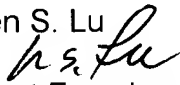
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am-5:00 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kuen S. Lu

Patent Examiner

August 15, 2005



Mohammad Ali

Primary Examiner

August 15, 2005